# LITERARY NEWS, VIEWS AND CRITICISM

# SIGHT OF WARSHIPS INSPIRED PEACE PLAY

Charles Rann Kennedy Talks of the Moral Lesson in "The Terrible Meek."

SEES GOOD IN FINANCIERS

But British Author Hates Soldiers-Sava Some Millionaires Seek Saimship.

Whenever Charles Rann Kennedy felt his inspiration failing when he was writing his peace play "The Terrible Meek, which is one of Winthrop Ames's openers for the new Little Theatre, all he had to lowas to go to the windows of his upper West Side apartment and look down upon the imposing line of battleships then decorating the Hudson. For Mr. Kennedy hates nothing more than he does a battleship, for what it symbolizes; and the sight of one was enough to set him writing, as the mere mention of one ugh to set him talking.

And the playwright is a good talker; he can sparkle his way through topic after topic for any length of time. He is a natural born speaker, but when he talks of something of vital interest to him.

room for all occasions plainly bespoke influence of the artistic temperament, what with the particular placing of this about it Japanese print or the grouping of that cluster of daffodils in a round bowl or the upstanding of this lone daffodil in a candlesticklike vase, and what with the presence of the playwright himself at the ime, by chance, softly playing on the baby grand piano, the effect left nothing

For he has grown to look very much like Beethoven this last year or so. Or is it Mozart? At any rate the one with gray hair, and worn flowing and à la pompadour, slightly aquiline nose and mouth Mr. Kennedy, with all these attributes, with bright brown eyes, a moderate plumpness and general air of well being and cheerfulness, looks east in the world like our typical British author as evidenced by the general lankiness, learness and cheerlessness of recent visitors. But as to that he himself disclaims longer being an English author and says that during his four years residenge in this country he has become a thorough American, as has his talented ife, Edith Wynne Matthison; that he has, in fact, just finished taking out his naturalization papers. It is also notice- sixteen books for general readers, in- during his life, and it was only recently what we term the "British accent.

"I knew as soon as I arrived here. onstructive processes.

tie in Maryland, but their little son, my biological argument for peace: three great-grandfather, was sent back to new volumes in the Grant Allen Historical Guides," being respectively "Smaller discount of the sent the sent three greaters before we finally got planted."

paper that I remember best of all is. oddly enough, the Detroit Free Priss. A friend of the family who had emigrated out to that part of the world used to send back copies of the paper and the grownuns would sit about reading the jokes aloud. And when the jokes would permeate their British sense of humor and they laughed aloud I remember that I would laugh heartily and hypocritically with them, just as though I understood something of what it was all about."

But how can you like America so much when it is so obviously a wealth empire. where money counts for so much, and you opposed to these things?"

One has to live in the world and to know the way of the world. Why, they kowtow to money in England more than we do to money in England more than we do here. And here the big financiers, the great captains of industry, have been building better than they knew, so it seems to me. They have been tremendously energetic, and they have been constructing, not destroying; they have accomplished miracles in the last hundred years; have been great public servants. I sometimes think that such men would make the most admirable civil servants. You might object that they would not serve unless for gain. But take that lasest of all trades, the trade of the soldier. It gives almost no pay; yet it does

"I hate them as I hate nothing else on earth. And the world is gradually coming to hate them, to see them for what they are. The world has awakened to consciousness, spiritual and intellectual and

scientific consciousness.

"The real meek are beginning to inherit the earth."

"And is that the lesson of your new play "The Terrible Meek'?" asked the

play "The Terrible Meek?" asked the visitor.

"Yes, it portrays a soldier's awakening to consciousness," replied the playwright. "The subject has long lain within me For we have all seen how this true realization of peace and war has been coming upon people. But a short while ago red blooded men were afraid to stand up against war; they were afraid they would thereby be branded as personal cowards. It was as when the teetotalism crusade began and red blooded men, afraid of the 'milk and water' charge, said 'no' with their lips, although they saw the truth in their hearts. But the truth had to find its way out—as it always will. And now the real meek are beginning to inherit the earth."

"How did the direct inspiration for the play come?"

play come?"
"Oh, that was lovely—all one could ask for," replied Mr. Kennedy with a smile. "All this, as I said, had been lying within me, disturbing me, for a long time. But I hadn't foeussed it. or found anything to hang it on. Then one night last autumn I had a dream in which I solved the problem. I awoke, and just as I awoke with my dream strong upon me I heard the clock striking 3. Can you imagine anything lovelier? I took it as a propitious omen and immediately got up out of bed thing lovelier? I took it as a propitious omen and immediately got up out of bed and wrote the first rough draft of the play, just as I had dreamed it. I finished it in what for me is a remarkably short time, three weeks. I usually work rather laboriously. The first writing is not difficult, and when I am writing straight prose I work very rapidly indeed. But the after realization of theatric restrictions and

of something of vital interest to him.

Such as war and peace or socialism, a hard,
unflickering basis of thought and resolution is revealed.

When a visitor went uptown to call upon
Mr. Kennedy in his lair the latter was found
inhabiting one of those "studio apartments," beloved of artistic temperaments, which are made up of an enormous
room for all occasions and a double
decker arrangement at one end halved
by a balcony overlooking the big room
with picturesque effect. The playwright's
room for all occasions plainly bespoke So I had rubbed up against life at several different points before I began writing

about it."

The play "The Terrible Meek" was published by the Harpers on the day of its première at the Little Theatre, and to make that day an eventful one in the annals of peace the author ascertained the length of time required by mail to reach about a thousand influential people scattered through the world whom he believed to be directly or indirectly, touched by the messing of the whom he believed to be directly or indirectly touched by the message of the play and personally wrapped, addressed and sent copies, mailed so as to reach each of them on that date. The following issued under that title derived its title people received copies:

people received copies:
All the Kings, Emperors and Presidents
throughout the world: the Pope,
leading Cardinals, Archbishops and
Bishops of the Church of Rome; Archhishops and Bishops of the Church of
England and the leading clergy; the
Bishops and leading clergy and ministers
of the various churches in America;
every member of the British and Canadian
Cabinets and of the German Reichstag;
all British Judges; the Governor of every
State in the United States, every War
Minister, leading General and Admiral in
Europe, and prominent suffragists.

Messrs, Henry Holt and Company announce the publication of some able that he has to a great degree lost cluding Richard Straus's "The Prison that his wife admitted that he was the Without a Wall." a story of a recluse who heard the call of the be said, "that I liked America. I felt Miss R. Macaulay's "Views and Vaga- are using several names, signing first I was going to be an American. I liked bonds," a genial satire on "Socialism" the men and women, they were so alive; and "The Poor," with as its protagonist hose in England are dead ones in com- an educated Englishman, who through parison I liked seeing and feeling the a sense of duty has become a blacksmith the contributors to the Smart Set, in its constructive processes. I do not demand that everything be 'finished.

"I liked America for what it was And length of the Heart," "Silver Thread and Other Plays for Young People," But you know, "she would add, "we great-grandfather came across the ocean, but had lived here only five years when both he and his wife died. Their bones lie in Maryland, but their little son, my

"The Scarlet Pimpernel," John Fox Jr.'s the days, had more names than he can perhaps now remember. And so with E. Phillips Oppenheim, who, it would splend dancer, for he loved music and by Constance D'Arcy Mackay, whose been successful, "Seyond War: a Chapter in the Natural History of Man," by Prof. Wernon L. Kellogg, a scientist, who introduces into this new book a strong lie in Maryland, but their little son, my

"The Scarlet Pimpernel," John Fox Jr.'s The Little Shephed of Kingdom Come," The Little Shephed of Colpert Town the West Indies," by Stewart L. Mirfs: "Alexander than dance together and Other Plays for Young People," "Silver Thread dancer, for he loved music and by Constance D'Arcy Mackay, whose "Form the Commercial Proleto of Colpert Town the French Splend dancer, for he loved music and by Constance D'Arcy Mackay, whose "The Little Shephed of Kingdom Come," The Little Shephed of Come, "The Little Shephed of Come," The Commercial Policy of Colpert Town the French Splend dancer, for he loved music and splendid dancer, for he loved music and splendid dancer, for he loved music and the French Splend dancer, for he loved music and the French Splendid dancer, for he loved music and the French Splendid dancer, for he loved music and the French Splendid dancer, for he loved music and the French Splendid dancer, for he loved music and the French Splendid dancer, for he loved music and the French Splendid dancer, for he loved music and the French Splendid dancer, for he loved music and the French Splendid dancer, for he loved music and the French Splendid dancer, for he loved music and the French Splendid dancer for he loved music and the I do not demand and married a working girl: "Patriotic early days, had more names than he can great-grandfather, was sent back to relatives in England and it was three generations before we finally got planted here.

"All my life I've had many American tastes unconsciously. As a child I liked American literature best, without knowing that it was American. My favorite ing that it was American. My favorite authors were Mark Twain, Hawthorne authors were Mark Twain, Hawthorne and James Fenimore Cooper, and I read and James Fenimore Cooper, and I read and James Fenimore Cooper, and the news-Marett's "Anthropology," Prof. J. J. Findlay's "The School: an Introduction to the Study of Education," and the Hon. Bertrand Russell's "Problems of Philosophy

The New Huebsch Publications. B. W. Huebsch announces that the following books are in preparation for early publication: "Woman in Modern Society," by Earl Barnes, the educator psychologist "The Theories of Evolution," a statement of the various theories of eminent European physiologists, translated from the French of Yves Delage and Marie Goldsmith by André Tridon: "The Burden of Poverty What to Do," a new volume in "The Art Vaunt of Life and Other Poems," by William Ellery Leonard; "The Mission of Victoria Wilhelmina." a story of the Victoria Wilhelmina." a story of the regenerating power of mother love, by Jeanne Bartholow Magoun: "The Super Race," in "The Art of Life Series," a study of heredity, eugenics and social adjustment, by Scott Nearing; "Folk Festivals; Their Growth and How to Give Them," by Mary Master Needham; "Replanning Small Cities," an illustrated study of six typical towns, by John Nolen: "Our Judicial Oligarchy," by Gilbert E. Roe and with an introduction by Robert M. La Follette: "Applied Socialism," a study of the application of socialistic principles to the State, by John Spargo.

Four might object that they would not serve unless for gain. But take that basest of all trades, the trade of the soldier. It gives almost no pay; yet it does not languish. Men follow it because of the glory they think there is in it. When men are fully awake to the real glory in civil service they will gladly devote their lives to that as well.

"I' think they are rapidly becoming conscious; that the revolution of this spirit of man, which Ibsen spoke of, is at hand, has been for the last five years. Suddenly the people have discovered that to labor is to pray. Why have some of our millionaires been acting so strangely of late? I believe it is because they have become conscious and are trying to save their souls. You may smile at the way they go about it, considering the way they have obtained their wealth, but they are going about it the best way they know how.

"That probably is what Carnegie is scally trying to do, to save his soul; and I think he is sincere. Saintship is neither really prevalent nor easily acquired but the bare fact that the desire for it can reach souls old and fossilized under other influences and stick there is in itself miraculous. And I suppose the saintship seekers trust that God will understand, and I suppose the saintships seekers trust that God will understand, and I suppose the saintships seekers trust that God will understand, and I suppose the saintships seekers trust that God will understand, and I suppose the saintships seekers trust that God will understand, and I suppose the saintships seekers trust that God will understand, and I suppose the saintships seekers trust the saintships seekers trust that God will understand, and I suppose the saintships seekers trust the saintships seekers trust the dod will understand, and I suppose the saintships seekers trust the will. Poor God! We put a lot on his shoulders.

"However, there will be a place, and a good one, in the service of the admirable government for our American financiers. There every one will naturally fall into his p

# **ANONYMOUS BOOKS**

Mystery Sometimes Helps Materially in the Sale of Works of Fiction.

AUTHORS' VARIOUS NAMES

Interesting Little Story of the Author of "To M. L. G." Sounds Well, Even to the Incredulous.

A recent article in THE SUN commented on the fact that the use of the "nom de plume," once popular in literature, is dying out. Anonymity, however, publishers assert, will scarcely ever fall out of use as ft offers too many advantages in the way of exploitation, advantages seen equally by publishers and authors. Rarely, they say, is it that the author's name is held back from a genuine desire or necessity for concealment, but that the holding back, for a time at any rate, will create conditions for arousing interest in the work.

Take "The Affair at the Inn." published few years ago, in which Kate Douglas Wiggin and three other writers collaborated. It was a semi-anonymous stunt that aroused much interest in that the not telling who wrote which part gave an added spice to readers who tried to assign the proper authorships.

There was no reason for withholding the name of the author of "The Inner Shrine. Harper's great success of two or three years ago. Nor of "Stella's Roomers. the story of a boarding house which was widely advertised with a huge and obviously intentional question mark and the caption, "Who Wrote 'Stella's Roomers'"? Nor of 'The Half-Smart Set," a novel not long ago put out by the Stokes, nor of the same house's "Too Many Women," though it was claimed for this last that it was only through anonymity the author, a young bachelor and member of Parliament, could candidly present his theme of the pursuit of man by woman and intimately portray present day London

issued under that title derived its title from a sort of mysteriousness. It was left, so the story goes, in a red box by a mysterious author who never came back to inquire about its welfare and who had not been heard of up to the time the publishers finally decided to bring out the manuscript as a book and put the box in the title. This was done about two years after the parcel had been left with them; at least so the yarn goes.

In some instance, of course, the author has a genuine desire for concealing his identity besides the exploitation advantages. The novel "The Breadwinners." written by John Hay, Secretary let fall. of State, was never acknowledged by him author of the book. Then there are a world: vast number of writers who constantly one and then another, for purposes of convenience. Thus Justus Miles Forman in the days when he was two-thirds of

anonymous class. The latest recruit to the anonymous of the man, but of his mind."

Of course much speculation has been aroused in theatrical, literary and general reading circles as to whether it is a real autobiography and as to its probable identification.

The publishers say that the manuscript of the book was given them by a London agent, who himself does not know the author's identity, as she was represented

agent, who himself does not know the author's identity, as she was represented in all the necessary business transactions between them by her lawyer. The London agent saw her only once, and then she came to his office too heavily veiled for possible recognition.

She came, she told me, only because she had heard it was being reported that her book was not a true autobiography, but a composite portrait of several actresses. She broke down and wept, and said that this report must be corrected else her only motive for writing the book would be frustrated; that she was not in it addressing the general public but only the one person indicated in the title, and that if that individual did not see it and realize it was a true autobiography the book's mission would be lost. She offered herself to pay for cables to America to instruct the publishers here to see that the erroneous reports as to the book being a composite be at once corrected.

The London agent, at any rate, so he

title, and that if that individual did not see it and realize it was a true autobiography the book's mission would be lost. She offered herself to pay for cables to America to instruct the publishers here to see that the erroneous reports as to the book being a composite be at once corrected.

The London agent, at any rate, so he wrote to the Stokes Company, was convinced that whether the book was an actual autobiography or not the author at any rate wanted the impression to go out that it was, and she was equally anxious that her actual identity in its connection be not detected, save in the one specified case. So the publishers are wondering just as much as is anybody who the author of "To M. L. G." is, and how much is actually true; but they are convinced that the author is not doing any exploiting.

The London agent, at any rate, so he wrote to the Stokes Company, was convinced that whether the book was an actual autobiography or not the author at its oshan, Mrs. G—'; and like enough, poor thing. Not that he mean owt but cats is sensible things, and they know who's who, mind ye. We haven't heard tell of him for years, but he grew up a straangen great man, I suppoase, and addles his bread by his writings; is worth some hundreds, they do saay."

Two books dealing with subjects of

Duffield's Spring Publications. In Messrs. Duffield & Co.'s list of new fiction this spring are "The Adjustment." by Marguerite Bryant, author of "Christopher Hibbault, Roadmaker," which is now in its tenth edition; "The Gate of Horn," by Beulah Marie Dix; "Paradise Farm," by Katharine Tynan; "The High Adventure," by John Oxenham; "Country Neighbors: A long Island Pastoral," by a new author, Susan Taber; a new Joe Muller story by Augusta Groner, "Mene Tekel"; "The House of Robershave," by-Emma Brooke, author of "Sir Elyot of the Woods," and "The Engrafted Rose"; "The Woollen Dress," a translation of Henry Bordeaux's "La Robe de Laine"; "The Garden of Indra," by Michael White, and "Putting Marshville on the Map, the second volume in William Ganson Rose's clever little "Ginger Series."

The same house, which has recently published a number of plays in book form, is bringing out "Yankee Fantasies," a volume of one act plays of New England life, by Percy MacKaye, and in the series of Plays of To-day and To-morrow, "The Waters of Bitterness," by S. M. Foz. fiction this spring are "The Adjustment."

John Rawn is a novel you cannot sidestep if it once gets in your way. - Boston Globe

By Emerson Hough

Author of The Mississippi Bubble, 54-40 or Fight, etc.

It is a progressive novel—one of the little voices of the era.

You would better read it, for it will teach you something.

—Cleveland Plain Dealer

Dramatic in treatment, important in theme, and as entertaining throughout as any piece of fiction can possibly be, John Rawn must be given its place among the really notable contributions to current American Literature.

The principal thing about this book is the way Mr. Hough handles his hero. It reminds one of Fielding's matchless analysis of that rascally thief-taker, Jonathan Wild. John Rawn is a book that you cannot sidestep if it once gets in your way. Its pages are packed with vivid pictures and wise commentaries. Between its covers the conflicting currents of temporary life are seen winding to their inevitable destination. -Boston Globe

THE BOBBS-MERRILL COMPANY. Publishers

### TENNYSON AS A BOY.

nconventional in Manner and Dress Good Dancer and Fond of Music.

Canon Rawnsley in Cornhill Magazine. Though Tennyson seldom visited Linolnshire after he left it in 1837, he never forgot it. Lincolnshire sight and scene constantly recur through his poems, but his love for Lincolnshire was a human love. He had been happy in his friendships and was ever true to them.

The originals of "rare pale Margaret and "Adeline" were the Misses Browne, beauties in their day, who were often over at Somersby

The two friends, Rosa Baring, of whom he wrote, and the Sophy Rawnsley, whom he addressed in a sonnet, have told me the impression that the poet made upon them in their girlhood.

"Alfred." said Rosa Baring, "was so quaint and chivalrous, such a real knight among men, at least I always fancied so. and though Sophy and I used to ride over the Guiana Forest," by James Rodway, to Somersby just to have the pleasure will appear shortly under the imprint of of pleasing him or teasing him, as the A. C. McClurg & Co. case might be, and used to joke one another about his quaint taciturn ways, which were mingled strangely with boisterous fits of fun, we were as proud as peacocks to be worthy of notice by him and treasured any message he might send or any word of admiration he might

As for my Aunt Sophy, the original of "airy fairy Lilian," as the family tradition has it, she never quite got over the kind of awe with which Tennyson inspired her as a young man, but she said: "He was so blind. The list includes James Lane interesting because he was so unlike Allen's "Kentucky Cardinal," Myrtle a young man, but she said: "He was so blind. other young men, and his unconventionality of manner and dress had a charm which made him more acceptable than the dapper young gentlemen of ordinary

frightened of him. I was never afraid

Two books dealing with subjects of

current importance are announced by the Scribners for publication to-day. "Criminal Responsibility and Social Restraint," by the late Dr. Ray Madding McConnell of Harvard University, and

### THE MAKING OF BOOKS.

New publications just announced by Cassel and Company are: "Fox Farm, novel by Warwick Deeping, whose "Joan of the Tower" was recently published; "Canada To-day and To-morrow," by Arthur E. Copping, the third book on Canada issued by this house within a year: "Marvels of Fish Life," by Franis Ward, illustrated with over a hundred photographs from nature; "Wonders of Plant Life," another nature book containing eight lumiere color plates by H. Essenhigh Corke in addition to forty black and white photographs by the author, L. Bastin.

Harper & Brothers announce that they are putting to press this week two of their recent novels, "Jennie Gerhardt," by Theodore Dreiser, and "The Silver Horde," by Rex Beach, as well as "A History of the American People," by Woodrow Wilson.

A new and enlarged edition of "In

Eleanor Hallowell Abbott's latest book, 'The Sick-a-Bed Lady," has been sent to press for the eighth printing. The thirteenth edition of the author's first book, "Molly Make-Believe," one of the best

The announcement of the publication in raised letter editions of two of last sea-sons popular novels, "Queed" and "The Iron Woman," suggests a brief survey of late years been made accessible to the Reed's "Spinner in the Sun," Margaret Deland's "The Awakening of Helena Richie," Anna Katherine Green's "The "The Scarlet Pimpernel," John Fox Jr.'s

three different parts of the United States bearing the titles "The Man Between." Woman Between" and "The Land George J. Blewett of Victoria College, een." Toronto; "The Yale Collection of Ameri-Between.

The George H. Doran Company announces the publication of two books by Arnold Bennett: "The Matador of the Five Towns," a collection of sixteen stories appearing simultaneously here and

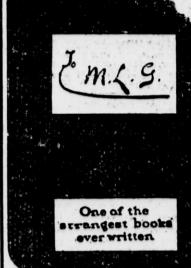
An old woman, who though \$2 remembered the day when as a girl of 11 she went to her first place "along o' the Tennyson," spoke of Mr. Halfred as a dacious one. He used to be walking up and down the carriage drive hundreds of times a day, shouting and holloaing and proaching, with a book always in his hand. And such a lad for making sad work of his clothes!

He never seemed to care how he was dressed or what he had on—"down on his heels," and "his coat unlaced and his hair anyhow."—"He was a rough 'un, was Mister Halfred, and no mistake," and she laughed heartily as the picture of the lad came back to memory.

These old village people must have learned a good deal of Alfred Tennyson's mind at this time. Among them they remembered there was a Wesleyan minister who "Mr. Halfred used to have a deal o' talk with i' them daays, and he said he wud go to chuch to 'commodate his mother but he wud well have liked to get oop a meetin' hissen."

Said an old inhabitant at Gibraltar Court:

"My missus 'ud saay, 'Now, here's Mr."



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amateur
The very artlessress of it is full'
of art; its realism could have
been conceived by any tyro,
but it could never have been put on paper but by a past master. . This is the best of all the season's attempts at best books."---

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Henry Holt and Company NEW YORK

titles: "The Origin of the English Con-stitution," by Prof. George Burton Adams: and Other Martial Interludes." The Holts "The President's Cabinet, Studies in the have concluded arrangements by cable Origin, Formation and Structure of an American Institution," by Henry Barrett Learned, Ph. D.; "The Commercial Policy of Colbert Toward the French West Indies," by Stewart L. Miris; "Alexarder Hamilton," by W. S. Culbertson, prison in question being the willingly endured cloistering of Cambridge. The book will appear here about March 23 ence," by Prof. W. E. Hocking; "The Christian View of the World," by Prof.

Before the end of April Henry Holt & Co.

can Verse," by Prof. Thomas R. Louns-

bury: "English Lyrical Poetry, From its Origins to the Present Time," by Edward

Bliss Reed; "Studies in the Lyric Poems of Friedrich Hebbel," by Albert E.

dured cloistering of Cambridge. The book A hitherto unknown manuscript from the

time in America, is announced by Rand, McNally & Company. It is entitled "Love in a Mask" and was written more than fifty years ago for the author's friend the Duchese de Dino, and has remained a possession in her family's library dutil recently, when the manuscript through her son, the present Due de Dino, was surrendered to the publishers. The same publishers announce the recent publication of "Betty Moore's Journal," a plea for homemaking and mother Before the end of April Henry Holt & Co. | hood among present day American women, will fiseue "The Fighting Blade," a novel of by Mrs. Mabel D. Carry of Chicago.

## LADY ELEANOR LAWBREAKER

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LOS ANGELES

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